



Houston **Bikeway** Program

Bikeway News

Spring/Summer 2006

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BikeTown USA

Enter Today!

How could cycling change your life? You can become a BikeTown participant and share your story. Houston has been selected Bicycling's BikeTown USA in 2006.



Houston is one of 12 cities around the country, whose local residents can enter to become one of 50 lucky people who receive a new bike. Selected participants will incorporate the bicycle into their daily life to experience what change it brings about for themselves, their family and their community.

Enter at www.bicycling.com/biketown. Selected participants will receive a new bike from a leading manufacturer, cycling gear and apparel. Those selected will be notified in August, when they receive their new bike in a celebration sponsored by Bicycling, Lipton and Mayor Bill White.

For more information call (713) 837-0003 or visit www.bicycling.com/biketown.



Photo by Teri Kaplan

The Bike to Work Day Lunch Rally at City Hall rounded up cyclists and would-be cyclists. Information about recreation, fitness, fun and transportation was available for all.

Bike Month 2006

Congratulations to all those who pledged to ride their bike in May, National Bike Month. Houstonians had good reasons to roll their bike out this year.

We kicked off the month with a ribbon-cutting (see more on *New Trail Open*). Our friends at Bayou City Outdoors continued more reasons to ride with a treasure hunt on wheels held on May 5. From there on, it was non-stop rolling fun for everyone. The Yale Street Art Market, the Texas Mountain

Bike Series, the Sierra Club ride along Brays Bayou, Bayou City Outdoors' *We're Too Cool* rides, The Art Car Parade, and a long list of good excuses to get on your bike and go. Bike Month also offered the

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New Trail Open

Neighbors jogging, parents with strollers or commuters pedaling to work and school. These are the sights you see on the new Holly Hall trail, an urban off-road bikeway now open for cycling and walking.

The trail broke ground last October. Construction was accelerated by the Texas Department of Transportation and a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on May 1, 2006. Senator Rodney Ellis and Council Member Carol Alvarado along with Michel S. Marcotte, director of the Public Works and Engineering Department attended the event. Special guests included Nzinga Rideaux, representing Council Member Ada Edwards, Teri Kaplan from the Texas Department of Transportation, Diane Shenke with The Parks People, and Gregory Paul with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, who will maintain the new greenway.

Users of the Holly Hall trail can now walk or bike to Reliant Park. They can connect to the Metro Rail at Fannin, extending their trip to Houston Community College, into downtown or to the University of Houston Downtown. In a short bike ride using the Cambridge bike lanes, they can reach the Texas Medical Center and Hermann Park. And they can also ride to Texas Southern University, the University of Houston or MacGregor Park by riding the Ardmore bike route which also connects to the overall bikeway network.

For information on other upcoming trails, contact the Houston Bikeway Program at (713) 837-0003 or visit www.houstonbikeways.org, and click the Map link for an online map.



Photo by Brandt Mammchen

Michael S. Marcotte, P. E., D.E.E., director of the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department; Nzinga Rideaux, Representing Council Member Ada Edwards from Council District D; Teri Kaplan, Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and Diane Shenke with The Park People, inaugurate the Holly Hall Trail cutting the yellow ribbon on a trail completed in only eight months by TxDOT for the City of Houston.



Corporate Rides

Bike to Work Day was visible everywhere in Houston. Our Corporate Partners took the challenge to win this year's competition very seriously. Ride organizers went after every possible cyclist they could find that would ride their bike to work on May 19th, National Bike to Work Day, as proclaimed by the League of American Bicyclists across the country.

Preparatory meetings and sessions to instruct cyclists with road-savvy and bike safety tips were held at various locations. New

cyclists were partnered up with bike buddies and everyone had a great time.

Of course someone had to win the grand prize Sun & Ski Sports party and this year's winners were the cyclists at the Energy Corridor. They'll get to participate in the exclusive event offered by our sponsor Sun & Ski Sports with nutritionist consultations, equipment fittings, product discounts and other goodies.

Honorable mentions go to our bicycling friends at The Galleria and HP for organizing cyclists at their work site for the 2006 Bike to Work celebration. Special thanks to their

team captains, Tom Compton and Jacob Hernandez, for their great effort. This is The Galleria's first year riding to work and HP's third year participating in the Corporate Challenge. We hope to see all cyclists and more in next year's ride.

Would you like to organize your own Corporate Ride at our next event? Visit us at www.houstonbikeways.org or call (713) 837-0003 to find out how.



(Above) The winning Energy Corridor team. (Bottom Left) The HP crew celebrating their third year Bike to Work ride. (bottom right) Peter Wang, a Galleria rider, reacts as Tom Compton, team captain, relates his ride to work at The Galleria. (above right) Great bright and reflective action by a Galleria rider--no trouble seeing this cyclist.



Bike Month Sponsors

Sun & Ski Sports
Bike2Save
Bayou City Outdoors
YMCA Downtown
Double Tree Hotel
Chick-fil-A Downtown
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Bike Barn
Starbucks
MDS
Nia Moves
Luchi & Joey's Downtown
BP
Behold The Beauty
Taft Street Coffee House
Houston Dynamo Soccer
City Slickers Soccer
Judge George E. Risner
Italian Ice Hut

"Bike Month"...Continued from page 1.

opportunity to participate in bicycle advocacy and planning activities to create a more bicycle-friendly community.

The Bike Rally at City Hall brought out over 200 downtown cyclists and those interested in cycling. There was live music by John Acevedo and good food. Everyone enjoyed the information, demonstrations, fitness and cycling

tips, the soft touch of Hand Prints Massage and transportation solutions from Metro and Commute Solutions. Everyone found more reasons to ride their bike.

There was also a 5-mile lunch-time bike ride along Buffalo Bayou.

At the conclusion of our Bike Month, we tallied the pledges and drew participant names to award the great prizes donated by our generous sponsors.

around Houston's historic, trendy, and cultural sights along the live oak-lined avenues.

The smooth registration process reflected the experience of a second year event. Food, drink and live music awaited all riders at the end of the 20-40-70-mile Tour.

Photo Contest

Do you have a photo of a favorite bikeway in Houston?

Send us your favorite bike lane, bike route, shared lane, bayou trail, rail-to-trail or other urban path in the city. Include a short caption of the location and why this is your favorite bikeway.

If your image is selected, you will receive a Houston Bikeway Program T-shirt and your image will appear on our Web site and other Houston Bikeway Program literature.

Send your digital photo (up to 1MB) to Lilibethandre@cityofhouston.net. Include *Photo Contest* on the subject line. Note your name, address, phone number and email.



The downtown Bike to Work Day celebration included a 5-mile Buffalo Bayou ride along Memorial and Allen Parkway trails. Senator Rodney Ellis (center in red) joined the fun.

Bike Lids

Looking for covered parking for your bike? StarLite Media donated 40 bike lids to the City of Houston. Look for them at Lot H downtown and at various Houston Public Libraries around town. Bike lids are easy to use (see the Summer 2005 Bikeway News). Visit www.houstonbikeways.org for more information. Click Bicycle Parking.



Photo by C. Hensley

Tour de Houston

The second Guaranty Bank Tour de Houston drew a crowd of over 2,500 cyclists, despite cloudy skies.

Mayor Bill White, Council Member Carol Alvarado and Senator Rodney Ellis led the 70-mile ride

New Map

The Houston Bikeway Program has released a new bikeway network map. The new map can be picked up at any Houston Public Library, Downtown Visitor's Center, participating bike shops or it can be found at www.houstonbikeways.org under the Map link.

City of Houston Bikeway Program

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Tour de Houston cyclist with the new Houston Bikeway Network Map.